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result will be 3,025,600 sq. mi. (the area of the United States). Find the area of the British Isles." No one would attempt to solve this problem by algebra, but would seek the result in a table of statistics. The answer had to be known before the problem was made.

The last chapter gives a brief history of elementary algebra.

Elements of Plane Trigonometry. By DANIEL A. MURRAY. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911. Pp. ix+136.

This book is well adapted for use in secondary schools. It is much shorter and simpler than the former book by the same author, entitled *Plane Trigonometry*, with which teachers are familiar. The new book differs from the old one in various ways.

The nature of the trigonometric functions is developed rationally and adequately for young students. Excellent suggestions are given on methods of attacking problems.

The book is to be prized for the considerable number of simple practical problems that it contains. An even greater number of applied problems, chosen from various wide fields of application, would be appreciated. The worth of a textbook in elementary mathematics henceforth is going to be determined more largely than in the past by the extent to which it presents the subject in relation to its practical uses in the world's work.

An Introductory Algebra. By JOHN H. WALSH. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1911. Pp. ix+214.

The *Introductory Algebra* covers about one-half of the work generally presented for a course in elementary algebra. It does this, not by taking one half of the topics of elementary algebra, but by treating the simplest and most important part of each topic.

Since practically all of the algebra used in later life by the pupil who terminates his mathematical studies with this subject—which is the case of a large proportion—is contained in the equation work in its simplest forms, the author gives much attention to the equation, making the other phases of the subject incidental in the early part of the work. The aim has been to secure for the pupils who drop out of school before completing the course the most profitable use of the time which they can give to the subject. All types of equations are treated before much time is given to drill in the fundamental operations. Another commendable feature of the book is the large amount of arithmetical work which it contains throughout.

Vocational Algebra. By GEORGE WENTWORTH and DAVID EUGENE SMITH. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1911. Pp. v+88. \$0.50.

This book, as the title would suggest, is designed to meet the needs of so-called "vocational" classes. The elementary algebra used in the shop or in commercial work is but a small part of that usually taught in the secondary school. The book presents only those essentials of the subject required for preparation for the shop or commerce. The topics treated are: algebraic expressions, equations, negative numbers, the fundamental operations, fractions, proportion, and miscellaneous applications—each treated briefly, concretely, and inductively. "Any one who has mastered it will be able to understand all the algebra of ordinary trade or business."

JAMES F. MILLIS

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